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making successful efforts to provide elementary education, but this does not excuse it for the almost total neglect of the health of the Eskimos.

On the contrary, as is well known, the importation of reindeer has proved a great success. Congress appropriated \$300,000 to buy them; and their progeny, now in Alaska, are estimated to be worth \$3,000,000.

The author's circuit is shown on an outline map of Alaska. He also reproduces Leffingwell's map (*U. S. Geol. Survey Professional Paper 109*, 1919) and pays tribute to the fine work that Leffingwell accomplished in the careful triangulation of this northern coast, "for which he must always be remembered in the annals of geography."

CYRUS C. ADAMS

HISTORY OF THE BIOGEOGRAPHICAL PROBLEM OF DISCONTINUOUS DISTRIBUTION

NILS VON HOFSTEN. **Zur älteren Geschichte des Diskontinuitätsproblems in der Biogeographie.** Index. Reprint from *Zool. Annalen*, Vol. 7, 1916, pp. 197-353. Würzburg.

This essay on the theories of the discontinuous distribution of plants and animals is limited to the living world and does not consider the life of the past ages. The presentation is clearly and interestingly written by a biologist along historical lines. It begins with the theories of the Greeks as set forth by Hippocrates and Aristotle, who thought the distribution to be due to differences in the local climates, and follows the more essential ideas down to the present time. For a while the church stimulated this research because of the riddle of the wide distribution and variability of man, but in the end it fought the conclusions of the naturalists.

Modern views began with the discovery of America, with its plants and animals which are different from those of Europe. Some continued to explain this difference by special local creations, and in fact Louis Agassiz (1850-1859) held to the creation theory to the end of his life. Buffon (1749-1756) is sometimes regarded as the originator of modern views in regard to biogeography. The way was further indicated by Cuvier (1815), Lyell (1830-1833), Heer (1845), and Forbes (1846) and was modernized by Hooker, De Candolle, Darwin, and Wallace. Now we know that the organisms are where they are because of local genetic developments out of antecedent stocks, conditioned by their variable dispersion and evolution along varying routes of travel and climate, and that this variation was brought about in the main by the geologic changes in the configuration of the land surfaces and their oceanic boundaries.

CHARLES SCHUCHERT

ROCK STRUCTURE AND LANDSCAPE FORM

KARL SAPPER. **Geologischer Bau und Landschaftsbild.** vi and 208 pp.; ills., index. *Die Wissenschaft*, Vol. 61. Friedr. Vieweg & Son, Brunswick, 1917. M. 7.20. 9 x 6 inches.

This semi-popular book, the outgrowth of lectures delivered in 1916, is the work of an experienced explorer in tropical America, Australasia, and elsewhere, who was professor of geography at the German university of Strassburg for several years up to the end of the war and who was then transferred to Würzburg. The first half of the book discusses the interaction of underground structures and surface processes in the production of the manifold landscapes of the earth; the second half is occupied with generalized descriptions of various types of landscape as affected by climate.

The first half is novel in some respects, as in giving in the introductory pages brief accounts of the odors and sounds that are associated with certain landscapes and in detailing the changes of landscape appearance under varying illumination, as at morning, noon, and evening, in clear and in stormy weather, in winter and in summer. The motive here seems to be to call attention to items that are commonly overlooked. But when we read in one passage that the chief source of illumination is the sun, by which the moon as well as the earth is lit up; in another that the change from day to night affords the maximum contrast of light and darkness; in a third that among other sources of terrestrial illumination are the aurora borealis, volcanic eruptions, lightning, and prairie fires (shooting stars are omitted); and in a fourth that fireflies and burning natural gas are generally too faint